

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9367

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TAGS: ETRD, IR, UR

SUBJ: IRAN-USSR JOINT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1. BOTH TEHRAN ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILIES FOR DECEMBER 9 GAVE FAIRLY PROMINENT COVERAGE TO AN AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT OF IRAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRIES AND MINES (TAHER ZIAI) AND THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SOVIET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRIES AND MINES (PETRO PITOVERALOF). ACCORDING TO THE AGREEMENT, A COPY OF WHICH THE MEMBASSY HAS OBTAINED, BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED TO THE STRENGTHENING OF TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, TO THE GRANTING OF APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE TO IRANIAN AND SOVIET PARTICIPANTS DURING THE TRADE FAIRS IN BOTH COUNTRIES, AND TO THE EXCHANGE OF TRADE DELEGATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IN REMARKS GIVEN BY SENATOR ZIAI FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT, THE LATTER OBSERVED THAT IRAN ALREADY HAS JOINT CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND JOINT TRADE COMMITTEES WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. HE ADDED THAT IT IS IRAN'S DESIRE THAT THERE BE SUCH A COMMITTEE OR CHAMBER WITH THE USSR. THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SOVIET CHAMBER SAID THAT THE RECENT RAPID ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN IRAN NOW REQUIRES A STRENGTHENING OF ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN IRAN AND THE SOVIET UNION.

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2. IN A CONVERSATION WITH ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, AN OFFICIAL OF IRAN

CHAMBER INDICATED THAT IN FACT THE SO-CALLED AGREEMENT DOES NOT REALLY BREAK ANY SIGNIFICANT NEW GROUND BUT MERELY REFLECTS WHAT IS ALREADY OCCURRING ON THE TRADE FRONT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. NONETHELESS, HE EXPECTS THAT WITHIN TWO OR THREE MONTHS SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS WILL GET UNDERWAY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES LOOKING TOWARDS THE FORMATION OF A FORMAL JOINT IRANIAN SOVIET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. PRESUMABLY THE NEW ORGANIZATION WILL ACT AS A CLEARING HOUSE IN MATTERS BEARING UPON TRADE AND COMMERCE BETWEEN IRAN AND THE SOVIET UNION.
HELMS

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